

Message Text

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65

ACTION SNM-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7584

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9843

DEPT FOR S/NM DUGSTAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNARCO
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: OPERATION FUNNEL

FROM: HOWARD GROOM

1. WILL COMPLETE DISTRIBUTION OF SECOND TRANCHE HOST COUNTRY FUNDS WITH BOGOTA FUNDING ON 9/27/76. FUNDS BEING EXPENDED ACCORDING TO PLAN WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS BEING APPROVED TO MEET SPECIFIC NEEDS. RECEIPTS ARE COMING IN AS ANTICIPATED AND SMALL IRREGULARITIES ARE BEING RESOLVED WITH APPROVAL OF EMBASSY B AND F OFFICERS. ONLY CONCERN IS 3,160,885 SOLES ON HAND IN LIMA PLUS THE 4,420,546 SOLES THAT WILL SHORTLY BE REPLENISHED FOR THE LIMA FUNNEL ACCOUNT. WITH THE UNCERTAIN AND APPARENTLY DETERIORATING DEVALUATION SITUATION EXISTING IN PERU (PRESENTLY A CONTROLLED FLOAT; 65-1 ON 9/16, 65.9-1 ON 9/17, 65-17-1 ON 9/20). U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD EXPERIENCE A SERIOUS LOSS IN FUNNEL FUNDS IF FURTHER AND SUBSTANTIAL DEVALUATION OCCURS

2. TRAVELED WITH H. DEAN PAULUS, ROBERT FLYNN, AND MICHAEL MCDONOUGH FOR BRIEFINGS AND FINANCIAL WORK IN LIMA, QUITO, AND BOGOTA FROM 9/21 THROUGH 9/25. EACH COUNTRY'S FUNNEL OPERATIONS WERE REVIEWED AND GUIDANCE WAS PROVIDED BY MR. PAULUS. AS OF 9/24 ALL EQUIPMENT FOR PERU HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO PIP. THE BOATS AND TRUCKS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL BY 10/15 AND HOPEFULLY SOONER. ECUADOR HAS ALL TEAMS ON ROADBLOCKS. SOME RELOCATION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ROADBLOCKS HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED. COLOMBIA HAS ALL ROADBLOCKS OPER-

ATIONAL AND SOME RELOCATION IS BEING PLANNED. PAULUS STRESSED THE NEED FOR INSTITUTION BUILDING, TRAINING AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING IN EACH OF HIS BRIEFINGS. HE ALSO STRESSED GIVING THE ROADBLOCK PHASE OF THE OPERATION A FULL AND FAIR TRIAL BEFORE CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES.

3. PLAN TO VISIT TEAMS IN COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, AND PERU, IN THAT ORDER, FROM 9/27 THROUGH 10/15. I CANNOT PROVIDE A SCHEDULE SINCE MY ITINERARY WILL BE CONTROLLED BY CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED AND THE VAGARIES OF IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION.

4. CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO A SMALL ONE DAY MID-POINT MEETING OF HOST COUNTRY OPERATIONAL CHIEFS, SAID'S PAULUS AND I TO EVALUATE AND DISCUSS POTENTIAL REDIRECTION. THE FEASIBILITY OF AND NECESSITY FOR THIS MEETING WILL BE DETERMINED BY REGION 18.

SANCHEZ

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